

A NEW COMBINATION IN *LOLIUM PERENNE* (POACEAE: POEAE);

L. PERENNE SUBSP. *STOLONIFERUM*

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ABSTRACT

A new combination is made in *Lolium perenne*: ***L. perenne*** subsp. ***stoloniferum***.

RESUMEN

Se hace una nueva combinación *Lolium perenne*: ***L. perenne*** subsp. ***stoloniferum***.

Lawson (1836) described a very distinct taxon of the *Lolium perenne* complex as *Lolium perenne* var. *stoloniferum*, giving it the common name of 'Spreading Ryegrass.' Lawson described this new taxon as follows:

"It is of early spring growth, pushing out long prostrate stolons or shoots, with an abundance of foliage, so that one plant, by the time the spikes begin to appear, will form a close tuft, extending from two to three feet in diameter; these shoots, however, although lying on the ground never attempted to strike root until near the end of the season, and even then very sparingly. ... [B]ut the length from root [crown] to the point of the spike is often nearly three feet. ..."

The very long determinate-stolons, which root at the nodes, and aggressive spreading habit of *L. stoloniferum* are very distinct from *L. perenne* sensu stricto and warrants recognition at the subspecific level, thus necessitating the following new combination.

Lolium perenne L. subsp. ***stoloniferum*** (C. Lawson) Wipff, comb. et stat. nov. BASIONYM: *Lolium perenne* L. var. *stoloniferum* C. Lawson, Agric. Man. 104. 1836. TYPE: OREGON. LINN CO.: S of Hwy 226 and Tennessee Rd. intersection; between Albany and Lebanon, on the West Coast Research Center farm, Barenbrug USA, Inc. 22 Jun 2010, J.K. Wipff, III 10284 (NEOTYPE: US, designated here; ISONEOTYPES: BRCH, BRIT, L, MO, NY).

No collection of specimens cited within the protologue and no record of collections deposited in a herbarium could be found, so a neotype is designated here.

Discussion regarding the basionym:

At first it appears that Lawson (1836) was describing a new species because his protologue (pg. 104) started as follows: "10. SPREADING RYEGRASS (*L. stoloniferum*)."

But an examination of his treatment reveals several places where his intention that he recognized this taxon at the varietal rank, and not at a specific rank. Indicating he was actually describing a new variety of *L. perenne* and not a new species of *Lolium*. Lawson (1836) explicitly recognized this new taxon at the rank of a variety on the following pages.

1. Pg. 102. ... "Like other plants which have received an extensive cultivation, there are several varieties of the Common Ryegrass, the principal of which are as follows:— ..."
He then goes on to describe 11 varieties of *L. perenne*, one which (no. 10) being SPREADING RYEGRASS.
2. Pg. 104. "10. SPREADING RYEGRASS (*L. stoloniferum*).—This name is applied to a remarkably stoloniferous variety, the seeds of which were procured from Germany, ..."
3. Pg. 105. "The above are the most esteemed varieties of *Lolium perenne*, but there are many more of inferior importance, and possessing less permanent characters."

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REFERENCES

LAWSON, C. 1836. *Agriculturist's manual: agricultural plants cultivated in Europe; climate of Great Britain. Forming a report of Lawson's Agricultural Museum in Edinburgh.* William Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh, Scotland.